

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 34 are pending in the application. 28-30 which were withdrawn claims have been canceled herein.

I. Allowed claims 1-17, 26, 27 and 31-34 are respectfully accepted.

The applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating the allowed claims.

II. The allowable subject matter.

Claims 20-23 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and should now, therefore, be allowable as indicated by the Examiner in paragraph 7 in the office action. Specifically, claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations from claim 20.

III. The anticipation rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tumminelli et al. (U.S. Patent 5,121,460). Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations from allowable claim 20. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claim 18 is respectfully traversed. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is therefore also allowable.

IV. Claim rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tumminelli et al (U.S. Patent 5,121,460). Claims 24 and 25 depend from claims 18 and 19. Claim 18 has been amended herein and is now allowable according to the USPTO. Thus, dependent claims 24 and 25 are allowable.

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V. Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and following remarks.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

Daniel P. Lent
Registration No. 44,867
55 Griffin Road South,
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Facsimile: (860) 286-0115
Customer Service No. 23413

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